NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

				EXAMINER
6449	7590	05/28/2008		CHANDLER, SARA M

ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, P.C.
1425 K STREET, N.W.
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WASHINGTON, DC 20005

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3693	

DATE MAILED: 05/28/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/480,991	01/11/2000	David Cushing	2566-105	5026

TITLE OF INVENTION: AUTOMATED BATCH AUCTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONTINUOUS FINANCIAL MARKETS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	$720	$0	$0	$720	08/28/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: <u>Mail</u> Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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or <u>Fax</u> **(571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)	Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

6449   7590   05/28/2008

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Certificate of Mailing or Transmission
I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

_____ (Depositor's name)

_____ (Signature)

_____ (Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/480,991	01/11/2000	David Cushing	2566-105	5026

TITLE OF INVENTION: AUTOMATED BATCH AUCTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONTINUOUS FINANCIAL MARKETS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	$720	$0	$0	$720	08/28/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
CHANDLER, SARA M	3693	705-037000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

❏ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

❏ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE   (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) :   ❏ Individual ❏ Corporation or other private group entity ❏ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

❏ Issue Fee

❏ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)

❏ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

❏ A check is enclosed.

❏ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

❏ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

❏ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

❏ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____   Date _____

Typed or printed name _____   Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.   OMB 0651-0033   U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/480,991	01/11/2000	David Cushing	2566-105	5026

6449	7590	05/28/2008

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EXAMINER
CHANDLER, SARA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Determination of Patent Term Extension under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed after June 7, 1995 but prior to May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Extension is 0 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the 0 day extension on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Extension is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/480,991	CUSHING, DAVID
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	SARA CHANDLER	3693	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *03/06/08*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-4, 6-13, 15-27 and 29-38*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

       1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

       2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

       3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

       1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is responsive to Applicant's arguments and request for reconsideration of application 09/480,991 (01/11/00) filed on 03/06/08.

Status of the Claims

Claims 11-12, 15-16, 19, 21-23, 26 and 29 are original. Claims 1, 10, 20, 30, 31 and 32 are currently amended. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 13, 17-18, 24-25, 27 and 33-38 were previously presented. Claims 5, 14 and 28 are cancelled. Thus, claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-27 and 29-38 are currently pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-27 and 29-38 are allowed, subject to an examiner's amendment described below

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian A. Tollefson, Reg. No. 46,338 on Monday, May 12, 2008.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Please make the following amendments to the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A <u>computerized</u> method for conducting a financial batch auction for a continuously trading financial market <u>on a computer</u>, comprising the steps of:

receiving, on a computer, during an order acceptance period trade orders from participants of the batch auction, said trade orders representing a desire to execute a trade of a security on said market;

continuously transmitting, over a network, to said participants information regarding additional trade orders received during said order acceptance period;

receiving requests from said participants during said order acceptance period to modify previously submitted trade orders;

modifying said previously submitted trade orders according to a corresponding received request to modify only if the modification meets a predetermined set of conditions, said predetermined set of conditions including at least one of an aggressiveness criteria and a net order imbalance criteria;

prohibiting the receiving of trade orders after said order acceptance period;

determining an optimal price at which a maximum number of shares will be executed based on all trade orders received from said participants during said order acceptance period; and

immediately preceding or following an intermediate stoppage of trading on said trading market, executing a batch trade of orders from said received trade orders corresponding to said maximum number of shares at said optimal price.

10. (Currently Amended) A computerized method of performing a batch auction of a security, comprising the steps of:

compiling an order book, on a computer, wherein said compiling comprises receiving order information from participants, over a network, during an order acceptance period immediately preceding or following an intermediate trade stoppage

of a continuously trading market, entering orders into the order book, and modifying or

canceling orders within the order book in response to modification requests received

from participants based upon order information provided to said participants during said

order acceptance period, where said modification requests satisfy a plurality of

predetermined conditions;

determining an optimal price, wherein said determining step comprises

identifying one or more prices at which the batch auction would produce a maximum

number of executed shares from the order book, and selecting one of said one or more

prices as an optimal price;

executing the batch auction at the optimal price, wherein said executing step

comprises crossing orders within the order book corresponding to the maximum number

of shares at the optimal price; and

allocating a portion of the orders crossed to each of said participants, said portion

being less than a size of the participants order;

wherein said plurality of predetermined conditions include at least one of an

aggressiveness criteria or an net order imbalance criteria.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for performing a batch auction of a security

for a continuously traded market, comprising:

a computerized network having at least two computers in electronic

communication with each other;

an order receiving program running on one or more of said computers, wherein

said receiving program is designed to receive a plurality of messages containing orders

and modifications of prior orders from a plurality of participants during an order

acceptance period, and to accept only those orders and modifications of prior orders that meet a set of predetermined criteria, each order representing a desire to execute a trade of a security on said mark, said set of predetermined criteria including at least one of an aggressiveness criteria and a net order imbalance criteria;

an order book database located on one or more of said computers, wherein said order book database communicates with said order receiving program and stores each of said accepted orders received by said receiving program;

a price discovery program running on one or more of said computers, wherein said price discovery program calculates an optimal price which will result in execution of accepted orders amounting to a maximum number of shares of the security during the batch auction based on order information stored in said order book database;

a batch auction execution program running on one or more of said computers, wherein said execution program executes the batch auction of said accepted orders corresponding to said maximum number of shares of the security at a predetermined execution time; and

a notification program running on one or more of said computers, wherein said notification program publishes a predetermined selection of data from said order book database during said order acceptance period, and wherein said notification program notifies said participants of said published selection of data during said order acceptance period;

wherein said auction is conducted immediate preceding or following a trading stoppage on said market.

30. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for conducting a security batch

auction cycle for a continuously traded market, said auction cycle having an order

acceptance period, a price discovery period, and an order execution period, said

auction cycle being conducted immediately preceding or following a trading stoppage

after an opening and before a closing of said market, said method comprising the steps

of:

during a first of two stages of said order acceptance period:

accepting requests, over a network, to enter auction orders into an order book

stored on a computer, to modify auction orders within the order book, and to cancel

auction orders within the order book; and

selecting data from said order book, and publishing said selected data to a

plurality of recipients;

during the second stage of said order acceptance period:

accepting late requests to enter auction orders into the order book if said late

requests to enter meet a first set of criteria;

accepting late requests to modify orders within the order book if said late

requests to modify meet a second set of criteria; and

publishing said selected data within said order book to said plurality of recipients;

during said price discovery period:

identifying one or more prices at which the batch auction cycle would produce a

maximum number of executed shares, and selecting one of said one or more prices as

an optimal price; and

during said order execution period:

executing a trade of said maximum number of shares at said optimal price; and

allocating said maximum number of shares among said participants on a pro rata basis;

wherein said first and second set of criteria include at least one of an

aggressiveness criteria and a net order imbalance criteria.

31. (Currently Amended) A <u>computerized</u> method of performing an intermediated

batch auction of a security on a continuously traded market, said intermediated auction

being conducted immediately preceding or following a trading stoppage after an

opening and before a closing of said market, comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of orders<u>, over a network,</u> from a plurality of participants

during an order acceptance period, each of said orders identifying a desire to trade

shares of the security;

providing information to an intermediary regarding said plurality of orders during

said order acceptance period, and accepting orders from said intermediary identifying a

desire to trade an excess number of shares based on said information;

determining<u>, on a computer,</u> an optimal price at which a maximum number of

said shares identified by said plurality of orders will be executed; and

executing a trade of accepted orders corresponding to said maximum number of

shares and said excess number of shares at said optimal price; and

allocating said maximum number of shares among said participants on a pro rata

basis;

wherein said plurality of orders may include one or more modified orders and

said providing step includes a step of determining whether said modified orders meet at

least one of an aggressiveness criteria and a net order imbalance criteria and

prohibiting said modified orders that do not meet at least one of an aggressiveness

criteria and a net order imbalance criteria from being provided to said intermediary.

32. (Currently Amended) A <u>computerized</u> method for conducting a financial

batch auction for a continuously trading market, comprising the steps of:

receiving<u>, on a computer,</u> during an order acceptance period orders from

participants, said orders representing a desire to execute a trade regarding a security

on said market;

continuously transmitting<u>, over a network,</u> to said participants information

including an indicated price and a net order imbalance relating to the orders as they are

received during said order acceptance period;

allowing said participants during said order acceptance period to modify

previously submitted orders only if the modification meets a predetermined set of

conditions<u>, said predetermined set of conditions including at least one of an</u>

<u>aggressiveness criteria and a net order imbalance criteria</u>;

prohibiting the receiving of orders after said order acceptance period;

determining an optimal price at which a maximum number of shares will be

executed based on all orders received during said order acceptance period; and

executing a trade of orders corresponding to said maximum number of shares at

said optimal price.

Examiner's Amendment Approved

/JAGDISH N PATEL/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3693   Dated   5/19/08

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is Huttenlocher, US Pub. No. 2003/0093343. Although Huttenlocher is similar to the instant application is some respects, there are clear patentable distinctions.

Huttenlocher teaches a method and mechanism for a marketplace of buyers and sellers of an asset (e.g., financial instruments). In this marketplace, participants want their orders to be shown to potentially interested parties so that a trade can take place however, the participants want their order treated discretely so that the trading information is not obtained by non-interested parties that may misuse the information and cause adverse price movement. Thus, Huttenlocher teaches a method and mechanism that allows users to enter buy and sell orders along with parameters (e.g., visibility group) which guides the distribution of information about the order to desired parties.

The claimed invention teaches a method and system for performing a batch auction. The batch auction including features such as intermediate stoppage of trading on the trading market and allowing users to modify previously submitted trade orders when the modification meets a predetermined set of conditions including an aggressiveness criteria and a net order imbalance criteria.

The claimed invention is distinct from Huttenlocher. In Huttenlocher, the users enter buy or sell order along with parameters (e.g., visibility groups). The visibility groups that participants are placed in are based upon the behavior and actions of the user, including current or past orders, trades or information requested about the security by the user or other users. Thus, inappropriate trading behavior is controlled via the

determination of the amount of trading information participants receive and by determining which participants will be able to receive the trading information (e.g., visibility groups). In the claimed invention, participants submit their trade orders and receive information about additional trade orders received during the order acceptance period. Inappropriate trading behavior is controlled however, by preventing participants from modifying their previously submitted orders unless it satisfies predetermined conditions (e.g., aggressiveness criteria, net order imbalance criteria).

Independent claim 1 is allowed because the best prior art of record, Huttenlocher, alone or combination, fails to teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious all the limitations required of a computerized method for conducting a financial batch auction for a continuously trading financial market on a computer, comprising the steps of:

receiving, on a computer, during an order acceptance period trade orders from participants of the batch auction, said trade orders representing a desire to execute a trade of a security on said market;

and

continuously transmitting, over a network, to said participants information regarding additional trade orders received during said order acceptance period;

and

receiving requests from said participants during said order acceptance period to modify previously submitted trade orders;

and

modifying said previously submitted trade orders according to a corresponding received

request to modify only if the modification meets a predetermined set of conditions, said

predetermined set of conditions including at least one of an aggressiveness criteria and

a net order imbalance criteria;

and

prohibiting the receiving of trade orders after said order acceptance period;

and

determining an optimal price at which a maximum number of shares will be executed

based on all trade orders received from said participants during said order acceptance

period;

and

immediately preceding or following an intermediate stoppage of trading on said trading

market, executing a batch trade of orders from said received trade orders corresponding

to said maximum number of shares at said optimal price.

Independent claims 10, 20, 30, 31 and 32 are allowable based on the similar

rationale. Dependent claims are allowable based on the same rationale as the claims

from which they depend.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SARA CHANDLER whose telephone number is (571)272-1186. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Kramer can be reached on 571-272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SMC
/JAGDISH N PATEL/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3693